

March 13, 1987

Dear Mrs. Gibson:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mrs. Dodie Gibson
Palm Beach
Republican Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 2622
Palm Beach, FL 33480

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

Palm Beach Republican Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 2622

Palm Beach, Florida 33480

OFFICERS

Mrs. Wallace L. Bostwick
President
Mr. Walter S. Gubelmann
1st Vice President
Mr. David J. Hobin
2nd Vice President
Mrs. William E. Kamerdze
Recording Secretary
Mrs. Richard Scott
Corresponding Secretary
Mr. Louis Weinstock
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mrs. Douglas P. Ames
Mr. James D. Black
Mr. McPherson Browning
Mrs. Frances C. Chapin
Mrs. William G. Cluett
Mrs. Douglas Dedo
Mrs. James A. R. Gibson
Mrs. Page Lee Hufty
Mr. Paul Ilyinsky
Mr. Robert C. Kime
Mr. Louis R. Peterhans
Mrs. Haven Putnam
Col. Frank Randolph
Mr. Walter L. Rathbun
Mr. Thaddeus P. Trout
Mrs. Duncan Van Norden
Mr. Robert Zimmer

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Alexander Beal
Mrs. Livingston Biddle
Mr. Mortimer Curran
Mr. Joseph M. Flemming
Mrs. Pamela Haas
Mrs. Trish Hilton
Mr. William House
Miss Meredith Keiser
Mrs. Nancy Kenefick
Mr. J. Timothy Killen, III
Mrs. J. R. Lyons
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Newell
Mrs. Kyle Perkins
Mrs. Robert C. Salisbury
Mrs. Helen Salvatore
Mrs. E. R. Schmidt
Mr. David Thomas
Mrs. Louis Weinstock
Mrs. Armour White
Col. William M. Zimmermann

March 5, 1987

Senator Howard H. Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Baker:

On behalf of the Palm Beach Republican Club we are extremely sorry that you will be unable to be in Palm Beach for the March luncheon.

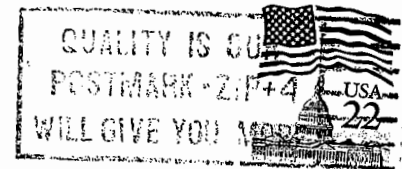
More importantly though, each and every member of our club wish to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chief of Staff at The White House. There could not have been a more splendid selection in the entire United States. Please know our best wishes, strong support and prayers are with you as you assist our great president.

Very truly yours,

Dodie Gibson

Dodie Gibson(Mrs.)

Gibson
3890 Sunset Lane
Singer Island, Fla.
33408



Senator Howard Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Barna:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. and Mrs. Allen A. Barna
5336 Gainsborough Drive
Fairfax, VA 22032

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

HAB-1

5336 Gainsborough Dr.
Fairfax, Va. 22032
March 2, 1987

Dear Mr. Baker,

We want to thank you very much for accepting President Reagan's offer to become his Chief of Staff. We suspect that this may have been a difficult decision for you and your family.

Over the past few months, we have been surprised and often saddened by disclosures about White House activities and attitudes. To make matters worse, prospects for improvement in the future did not look very good — until your appointment was announced.

We may not agree with the President on all matters; but, we want him to be strong and successful in most things that he tries to do.

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Sharek:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. William M. Sharek
Apartment 5B
125 Prospect Street
Stamford, CT 06902

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

HHB-1

1 March 1987

Mr. Howard H. Baker
VINSON & ELKINS
1101 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Baker:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chief of Staff.

As one who has supported you, and exchanged several letters with you in 1985 and 1986 concerning the upcoming Presidential race, I am nonetheless happy about your decision. Perhaps it is because, as Chief of Staff, that is where you are needed most.

In the meantime, I will instead throw my support behind Senator Dole.

I hope you will continue your activity in politics with an eye towards 1992 ... or perhaps the Vice-Presidency.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'WAS Sharek', written over a horizontal line.

William M. Sharek

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. and Mrs. West:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph West
1135 South 75th Street
West Allis, WI 53214

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

Sen. Baker.

HHB-1 Our sincere thanks for
accepting the position of
Chief of Staff.

Sign us up for workers
in the 1988 campaign

Mr & Mrs Ralph West
Alderm. Retired
City of West Allis
Democrat



* Ralph L. West *
1135 S 75TH St
West Allis WI 53214

March 13, 1987

Dear Ms. Christy:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Ms. Marian Christy
The Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts 02107

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

The Boston Globe

From: Marian Christy

92 Common St.
Belmont, Mass. 02178
1/3/87

HHB-1

Dear Senator Baker:
Congratulations and
heartfelt good wishes. The
job is a perfect blend
of man and position. I
always remember our fine
interview in your law
offices and hope we can
talk again. Admiringly
Marian Christy

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Freesman:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Gordon S. Freesman
2011 LeMoine Avenue
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

GORDON S. FREESMAN

HMB-1

March 2, 1987

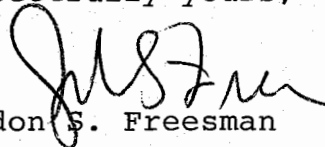
Dear Senator Baker:

I am so pleased at your recent appointment as Chief of Staff and wish you well.

I have supported President Reagan and his programs for many years and have visited The White House frequently, not in any business capacity, but as a collector of Americana and a supporter of Americans for Responsible Government, whose main office is in Washington.

I have always been pleased about your leadership and your high quality of character. I look forward to having the honor of meeting you at one of the many functions we may be attending at the same time.

Respectfully yours,



Gordon S. Freesman

Senator Howard Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D. C. 200

March 13, 1987

Dear Colonel Wallace:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

LtCol Ingvar Wallace, USAF, Ret.

Yoder, Colorado 80864

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

1-002329A067 03/09/87

ICS IPMWGWC WSH

87 MAR 9 A 7:19

00131 03-04 0819A EDT

PMS WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

1-000497A067 03/08/87

ICS IPMMOZF MTN

00311 1MOORESTOWN NJ 03-08 0245A EST MOZE

ICS IPMWGWS

HHB-1
4-0242715066 03/08/87

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

3034759494 TDBN COLORADO SPRINGS-CL CO 17 03-07 0550P MST

ICS IPMMOZZ

WHITEHOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

HOWARD BAKER

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU MADE MY DAY AND THE PRESIDENTS CREDIBILITY BY
ASTUTELY ABOLISHING POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION.

INGVAR WALLACE, LT COLONEL USAF RETIRED, YODER, COLORADO, 80864

0043 EST

0813 EST

0717 EST

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. S. A. Nelson
1900 Willow Drive
Los Osos, CA 93402

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

HHB-1
MR. BAKER,

1 MAR. 1987

WHY? I'M SURE YOU HAVE BEEN, AND WILL BE, ASKED THAT QUESTION MANY TIMES. AND, PERHAPS, IT IS NO ONE ELSE'S BUSINESS. IF SO, TELL ME. HOWEVER, IF YOU THINK YOUR SUPPORTERS ARE ENTITLED TO AN EXPLANATION, I WOULD WELCOME ONE.

I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT YOU ARE THE BEST MAN ON THE POLITICAL HORIZON TO LEAD THE NATION DURING THE EIGHT YEARS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S FINAL TERM. NOT JUST THE BEST REPUBLICAN, BUT THE BEST MAN!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE PUT YOURSELF IN A NO-WIN POSITION, AND HAVE RULED OUT ANY EFFORT TO RUN IN THE NEXT ELECTION. SHOULD BUSH, DOLE, OR SOME OTHER REPUBLICAN WIN NEXT TIME THAT EFFECTIVELY RULES OUT ANOTHER EIGHT YEARS, AND PERHAPS FOREVER. IS THAT REALLY YOUR INTENT?

COULD IT BE THAT YOUR FAMILY DOES COME FIRST? THEN WHY TAKE A SALARY CUT OF ABOUT \$700,000? IF IT'S REALLY FOR YOUR FAMILY, THEN I SAY "GOOD FOR YOU".

IN ANY EVENT, I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW JOB, AND IN THE FUTURE.

S.A. NELSON
1900 WILLOW DR.
LOS OSOS, CA 93402

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Rivkin:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Dan Rivkin
6459 Malvern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

DAN RIVKIN *Advertising*

6459 Malvern Avenue • Philadelphia, Penna. 19151 • TRinity 7-3752

HHB-1

3-5-87

Howard Baker
Chief of staff

Dear Mr. Baker—

Congratulations! You are the right man for the job --- and also the right man to save the G.O.P. from defeat in '88. Without your own efforts, fate has decreed that you will be the Presidential Candidate - and win!

As I see it, right before the last election for Congress, especially the Senate, the G.O.P. masterminds conceived the idea of spending a pile of money, which included a nationwide telephone campaign, urging voters to "save the Senate". I received such a call as a Registered Republican.

The political lesson learned is that money alone does not win elections. The people were upset by the Iran affair, a shock to our national honor, after rumblings had seeped through about weapons for hostages; and the Central American money scandal.

I deeply appreciate the warm, personal letters received from you while you were the Senate Majority leader.
with best wishes.

I am,
Sincerely,
Dan Rivkin

March 13, 1987

Dear Mrs. Ruud:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

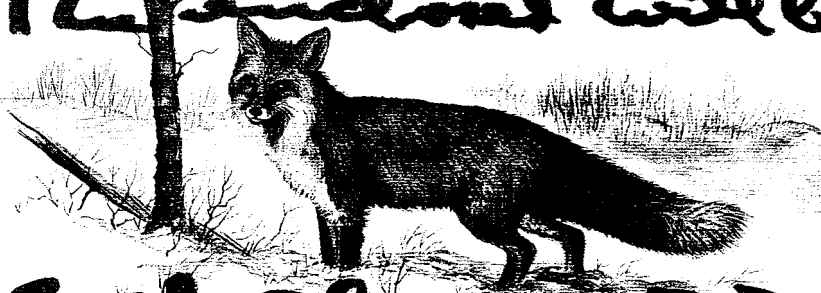
Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mrs. Dorothea C. Ruud
10800 Cramer Road
Auburn, CA 95603

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

Dear Senata Balan,
Thuncheers for your
Cordell Hall & Andrew J. Jones
HHB - The road will be



A good play for P.R.
Dunbar in Paris,
Rainier. Best to you,
Dorthea Rundfor

Appeal for Action on the
Convention Against Torture

Dear Mr. President,

More than one-third of the governments of the world engage in the brutal practice of torturing their prisoners.

The 1984 Congressional Joint Resolution, signed by you, indicated a commitment to combating the practice of torture worldwide.

Your signature on the Convention Against Torture on behalf of The United States is a strong first step in demonstrating a commitment to *specific action* leading to the eradication of the despicable practice of torture.

I call upon you to sign the Convention Against Torture on behalf of The United States.

Dorthea Rundfor

Signature

Amnesty International



Partners of Conscience

John G. Healey
Executive Director

Dear Partner of Conscience,

Thank you for your regular monthly support.

Your gifts are very important in helping us respond to special emergencies and opportunities for action as they arise.

Right now we are working to secure U.S. ratification of an important piece of international legislation that will make a tremendous difference in the lives of torture victims.

Titled the Convention Against Torture, this important human rights document takes positive steps toward preventing and eradicating torture.

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1984, the Convention must be ratified by 20 countries before it becomes legally binding upon those governments which are parties to it.

Eleven countries have already ratified the Convention. Forty-seven more have signed the Convention, the first step to ratification.

The Convention is the product of seven years of negotiation. Amnesty International's representatives were present at each session, making its views known. And although the United States lobbied forcefully for its adoption at the U.N., President Reagan has yet to sign the Convention and submit it to Congress for its advice and consent to ratification.

Amnesty International is urging ratification of the Convention by governments worldwide as part of our Campaign To Abolish Torture.

Here's why the Convention is so important:

- ** Nations party to the Convention must investigate allegations of torture within their territory.
- ** Nations that ratify the new Convention must make torture a criminal offense under the laws of

(over, please)

their country and accept the principle of "compulsory universal jurisdiction."

This means that torturers, unless extradited for trial elsewhere, must be prosecuted where they are apprehended.

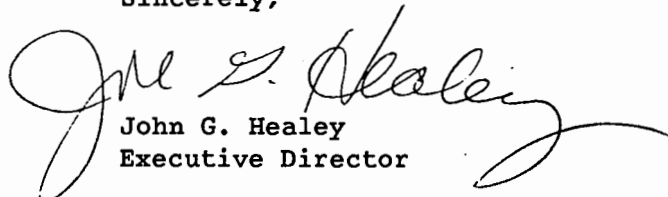
- ** The Convention also establishes that torture can never be justified and makes obedience to a superior's orders, one of the most frequent responses to the charge of torture, an inadmissible defense.
- ** The Convention also prohibits statements extracted under torture from being used in legal proceedings and obligates governments to provide victims of torture with fair and adequate compensation.
- ** At the same time, the Convention protects individuals from deportation to countries where they risk being tortured.

Amnesty International is now working to mobilize citizen support for ratification of the Convention Against Torture by the United States government.

Please help win ratification of this important international human rights legislation by signing the enclosed post card to President Reagan and returning it to me along with your monthly payment.

I will send your post card along with many others to President Reagan. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


John G. Healey
Executive Director

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. John T. Lawrence
876 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

876 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

March 4, 1987.

HHB-1

The Hon. Howard Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Howard:

It was with a great delight when I learned that President Reagan chose you to become his Chief of Staff. You are well liked and respected by the majority of this country and I cannot imagine anyone else better suited for this job. I am sure you will serve the President well, especially in these trying times for him.

With my very best wishes for a great success in your new position,

Sincerely yours,

John T. Lawrence
Vet WWI & II (42nd Div + then Engd (WWII))
5 mos italy 48
John T. Lawrence

*cc to V&A
+ V3
Brazier*

March 13, 1987

Dear Mrs. Cohen:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mrs. Altie Cohen
7025 Leestone Street
Springfield, VA 22151

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

HHB-1

7025 Leestone St.
Springfield, VA 22151
March 6, 1987

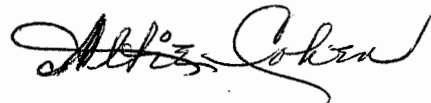
Hon. Howard Baker
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

Your decision to accept the position of White House Chief of Staff made my husband and me both glad and sad. Glad because our country is in trouble and if anyone can get us back on track it's you. Sad because this means you won't be our President in '88; and we long felt you the most qualified for that position. (I cried when you bowed out of the running last time.) But then, we should have known that you would willingly sacrifice your personal opportunities and well being for the good of America. It makes me proud to be a fellow Tennessean!

Your chosen task will not be easy and we suspect that you'll face many difficult situations. But with your knowledge and capabilities we have faith that, with His help, you'll succeed in refocusing the nation's attention on meaningful issues and putting "Iranscam" behind us. Our prayers and best wishes go with you.

Sincerely,



Altie Cohen

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Patel:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

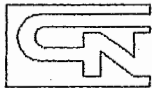
With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Natu Patel
2605 Brighton Court
Kingsport, TN 37660

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1



GRAPHNET

GRAPHNET
329 ALFRED AVENUE
TEANECK, NJ 07666

C071 44-1 D703 10 03/06/87 04:11

6A 03/06 03:46 I049 5801-1 C071 44 03/06/87 04:04 CP
/ SGB5801 NDN621 NPS3/6
URGW CO INND 050
NEWDELHI ITO 50 6 1000

SENATOR HOWARD BAKER
CHIEF OF STAFF
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

HHB-1

PLEASE ACCEPT THANKS FROM A FELLOW TEN ESSEAN
FOR ACCEPTING THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STAFF AT THIS TIME OF HOUR
COUNTRYS NEED YOU MAKE US PROUD
NATU PATEL 2605 BRIGHTON COURT KINGSPOET TENNESSEE 37660

COL 2605 37660

NNNN

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Coyne:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Barry Lee Coyne
Sociology Instructor
Northern Virginia
Community College
Sudley Road
Manassas, Virginia 22110

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

65
/ HHB-1

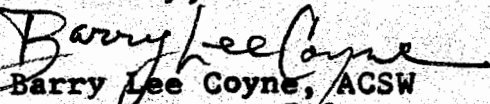
Dear Mr. Baker,

Our fervent prayers go out to you as you undertake your new challenge as Chief of Staff at the White House. May your sense of rationality demonstrated in the Senate continue to be the pacesetting spirit.

On another note, where might we contact former NSC Advisor Robert McFarlane?

With teenaged suicide such a significant problem, we believe he might be capable of supplying a valuable contribution in public education of this issue. We hope to develop such a project at our campus in the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,


Barry Lee Coyne, ACSW
Tel: 703-243-1748

March 13, 1987

Dear Ms. Cook:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Ms. Angela Everett Cook
314 West First Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48503

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

05
HHB-1
March 4, 1987
314 W. First Ave.
Flint, MI 48503

Chief of Staff Howard Baker
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baker,

I want to offer my sincere congradulations on your appointment as White House Chief of Staff.

As a native of Maryville, Tennessee, I was so proud and pleased when I heard the news about "my" Senator. And as a sustaining member of the Republican National Committee, I knew that the best man had been tapped for the job.

Of course, I was planning on supporting you in the 1988 election. But I understand your decision, and I will support you in whatever you do. I believe in you. I know you will do what is best for President Reagan, for the Republican Party, and for the United States.

Once again, congradulations. I will remember you in my prayers. Please let me know if there is any way I may be of help to you.

Sincerely yours,

Angela E. Cook

Angela Everett Cook

March 13, 1987

Dear Mrs. Perry:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mrs. Marjorie Perry
12 Mather Avenue
Edgewood, RI 02905

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

05 H113-1

March 3, 1987

Dear Mr. Baker,

The pineapple is the symbol of welcome. So may I join thousands of others in welcoming you to your new office. It will be a much-needed breath of fresh air in the White House. God be with you.

Many times when you were Majority Leader I wrote to you about issues which bothered me greatly and each time you replied with a personal answer to my questions.

I judge you to be a man of great integrity and wisdom. I wish you well.

Sincerely,
Margaret Perry

Baker's first showing wins high marks

Former senator takes over as chief of staff with poise, purpose

By LOU CANNON

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former senator Howard H. Baker Jr., making his first appearance in the White House briefing room as President Reagan's chief of staff, demonstrated yesterday that he takes his new job more seriously than he takes himself.

Displaying the comfort of an accomplished political performer who knows that he is following an unpopular act, Baker assured reporters that he has no intention of becoming "prime minister," the unofficial title bestowed on and accepted by his fallen predecessor, Donald T. Regan.

"I am acutely aware of the fact that Ronald Reagan is president and I am not, and that my role and responsibility is to serve as his chief of staff, to carry out his programs and proposals and to serve him in whatever capacity I can in that role," Baker said.

The contrast with Regan could not have been more stark. In his infrequent public appearances of the last few months, Regan was invariably surrounded by a retinue of aides. He also used the imperial "we" when referring to himself and

the president.

Baker arrived yesterday with a single aide and without pomp and circumstance. He said he intended to brief reporters regularly and, in the relaxed manner of a man who does not mind new challenges, he confessed that the job is more challenging than he had anticipated.

"I may not have to brief anymore," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater quipped after Baker departed.

Despite the self-deprecation, Baker gave every appearance of being in charge. He came to the briefing armed with the announcement that Robert M. Gates had withdrawn as the president's nominee to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency and a muted apology that Mr. Reagan has not chosen a replacement.

One sensitive question

Baker also came prepared to deal with the sensitive question of Nancy Reagan, the nemesis of Regan in his fall from power. On a plane ride to Miami last week before he was tapped to become chief of staff, Baker had discussed the first lady with an editor of the Miami Herald,

saying that "when she gets her hackles up, she can be a dragon."

Baker blandly acknowledged the accuracy of the quotation and called Nancy Reagan "a distinguished citizen" and "obviously a lady of strong convictions. That's what I meant."

When a reporter pursued this by asking Baker what he intended to talk about when he met the first lady later in the day, he said, "Whatever she wants to talk about."

Baker's mission yesterday was to defend the proposition that the president is healthy, vigorous and alert in the face of numerous suggestions — some by members of the Tower special review board — that Mr. Reagan is anything but that. Even in this difficult venture, Baker tried not to overdo it.

In the same conversation with the editor in which he had discussed Nancy Reagan, Baker said the president sometimes bore a "blank expression" when conversation turned to matters that had been discussed two weeks earlier.

Baker acknowledged the accuracy of this quotation, then tried to turn it to Mr. Reagan's advantage.

"In my experience as majority leader, I found that the president

was as good as anybody in the give-and-take discussion on sensitive, important and complex issues but that, when you approached him about it two weeks or two months later, you found that the half-life of the memory was short," Baker told a reporter. "But so is mine. And so is yours, I suspect."

The absence of tension that characterized the briefing was even more prevalent behind the scenes, according to White House officials.

No blanket firings

Baker started the day by meeting with holdover officials and telling them that there will be no blanket firings. He asked departing political director Mitchell E. Daniels to stay on for another month. And he met with Fitzwater and said, "I want you to stay and take the blame."

"Thank you," replied Fitzwater, who took over a month ago from Larry Speakes and has displayed the light touch, apparently valued by Baker.

"You can almost feel that a heavy hand has been lifted from the White House," a senior White House official said of Baker's first-day performance.

A welcome appointment as chief of staff

President Reagan's choice of Howard Baker to succeed Donald Regan as White House chief of staff is politically astute, administratively smart and especially welcome.

For two decades, Mr. Baker was a well-respected member of the Senate, famous for his skills as an advocate, manager, and master of the working compromise. He was majority leader during the first four years of the Reagan presidency, a time when many of the president's toughest legislative battles were fought and won.

He is popular, capable, candid and conciliatory. Moreover, by postponing his political ambitions, he has enhanced his own political stock.

Whether his appointment has been made in time, however, remains to be seen. Donald Regan stayed on too long for anyone's good, much less his own; President Reagan has some distance to go before order and stamina are restored to his administration. Howard Baker will hasten the process. He may also help concentrate the attention of the capital city on issues that matter.

That is a fundamental problem, and the surest challenge Mr. Baker will face. For while Congress is entitled to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but those loose ends left untied by the report of the Tower Commission, the temptation will be overwhelming to score political points as the clock winds down to 1988.

On this matter, our allies, among others, are especially fearful. The American reaction to political scandal is to lengthen the investigative season

rather than solve the problem at hand. But it will do the nation no good, and will certainly reflect little credit on a Democratic-controlled Congress, if efforts to put things right and face the future are met with obstruction, indifference, or a determination to paralyze the system for partisan political gain.

So, if the appointment of Howard Baker is any preview, the president's address tomorrow night should be beneficial as well as instructive. This will be Mr. Reagan's official reaction to the findings and conclusions of the Tower Commission report. It may signal, at long last, the beginning of the end of the Iran-contra Affair — or it may serve as the end of the beginning.

Either way, much depends on President Reagan, and his choice of Howard Baker sends an encouraging first message about the balance of his tenure. Chiefs of staff are comparatively new to the White House apparatus, reflections of the character and work habits of the presidents who use them. Some are supreme bureaucrats, others are policy czars; some are conspicuous, others have a "passion for anonymity." Their importance depends on the confidence they gain and the reputation they earn.

Howard Baker's reputation is sound and secure. His effectiveness, however, is largely up to his boss. For whether Mr. Baker can translate his personal prestige into public success depends on President Reagan's judgment about what he wants from his new chief of staff — and his determination to get it.

March 13, 1987

Dear Mr. Roy:

Thank you for your kind message. I appreciate your warm words of support and confidence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Raymond L. Roy
737 South Pantano Parkway
Tucson, Arizona 85710

HHB/SW/WJB/jfcf6
HHB-1

1

25

HHB-1

RAYMOND L. ROY
737 S. PANTANO PARKWAY
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85710

(602) 722 9415

4 March 1987

The Honorable Howard Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baker:

I would like to wish you well in this new and challenging position as Chief of Staff for our President.

I had hoped to wish you well as the next President of the United States. Since I am now 80 I thought it best not to delay my feelings of gratitude that you are back in our government - you should never have left.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond L. Roy

Raymond L. Roy